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Letter dated 25 February 2002 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has received the attached report from the Lao People's Democratic Republic, submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**
Chairman
Counter-Terrorism Committee

02-26268 (E) 060502

Annex

Letter dated 25 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

I have the honour to forward herewith a report of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001 (see enclosure).

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its enclosure circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alounkeo **Kittikhoun**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Enclosure

Report by the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the actions taken to implement Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)

I. Introduction

The Government of the Lao PDR is always of the view that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations committed wherever, whenever and by whomsoever must be seen not only as an assault against innocent people, but also as a threat to the stability of nations as well as international peace and security. Acts of terrorism affect the very basis of societies and impede the full enjoyment of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of people. The worldwide dimension of September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States of America has further justified the urgent need to have a global concerted response to terrorism. Such a response should be organized in accordance with the general principles of international law and the charter of the United Nations, and should bring genuine justice and strengthen international peace and security. In this context, the United Nations has a crucial role to play.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic supports the implementation of resolution 56/1 of the General Assembly, which calls for international cooperation in the fight against terrorism and urges member states to take all possible measures to implement Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) following the tragic events of 11 September 2001 in the United States of America.

On many occasions, the Government of the Lao PDR has stated its unequivocal and consistent policy on combating terrorism. In his message of condolences of September 12, 2001 addressed to the President of the United States of America, H.E Mr. Khamtay Siphandone, President of the Lao PDR, among other things, reaffirmed the consistent policy of the Lao PDR to cooperate with the international community in the fight against terrorism. The same policy was reiterated by H.E Mr. Somsavat Lengsavad, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign affairs in his address to the general debate of the 56th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Furthermore, at the Seventh ASEAN Summit held on November 5, 2001 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, H.E Mr. Bounnhang Vorachit, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR together with other ASEAN Heads of State and Government signed the ASEAN Declaration on Joint Action to counter Terrorism. The said Declaration has the objective of promoting ASEAN's counter-terrorism efforts in the fight against this evil.

II. Measures already taken by the Lao Government to prevent terrorism

The Lao Government is committed to implementing Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). Although it still lacks domestic legal framework, expertise, skill and resources, the Government of the Lao PDR has already exerted a great deal of efforts to prevent terrorist activities by undertaking several measures as follows:

1. Strengthen security measures and inspection of the international airport, the border checkpoints and the premises of diplomatic missions and international organizations. The immigration control and security of civil aviation have also been tightened.
2. Instruct all embassies and consular generals of the Lao PDR abroad not to issue any visa to the suspected persons associated with terrorist activities or terrorist groups to the Lao PDR. This measure has been taken in order to prevent the use of the Lao territory as a shelter for terrorists.
3. In implementation of the provisions of Security Council resolutions regarding the prevention and suppression of financing acts of terrorism and in response to a diplomatic note from the US Embassy in Vientiane, the Bank of the Lao PDR issued on December 11, 2001 a Decree No. 307/BoL, ordering all its liaisons, commercial banks and other banks in the Lao PDR to take all possible measures within their capacity to investigate the transactions and freeze the terrorist assets. As a result of investigation carried out, there has been no assets found that are associated with terrorist activities.
4. The Lao PDR has signed and ratified the following International Conventions on terrorism and other international conventions related to the issue of terrorism:
   - 4.1 Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (Tokyo, 1963),
   - 4.2 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (Hague, 16/12/70),
   - 4.3 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (Montreal, 23/09/71),
   - 4.4 Convention on Psychotropic Substances (Vienna, 1971),
   - 4.5 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (New York, 1961).

III. Future activities to be taken by the Government of the Lao PDR to implement Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)

As already stated above, the Lao Government is committed to the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1373. It is important to note that at present the Lao PDR is in the process of developing a new legal framework and exerting efforts to integrate its international obligations including the ones contained in Security Council resolution 1373 into national legislation. As we move forward in this process, it is our hope that we could strengthen our national capacity, enhance our reporting mechanism and developing more effective tools in order to live up to our international obligations. To be able to succeed in this endeavour, the Lao Government needs support from the international community.

To reaffirm its consistent policy in cooperating with the international community in the fight against terrorism, the Lao Government has expressed its staunch support for an early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. In this regard, it appreciates very much the efforts of the Ad hoc Committee on Terrorism. Furthermore, the Lao Government has already decided to become party to the following International Conventions:

1. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes and Against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, 1973.
2. International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombing, 1997.

3. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation; Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, 1998.
4. International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, 1979.
5. Convention on the Safety of the United Nations and Associated Personnel.

IV. Conclusion

Due to numerous obstacles, such as lack of domestic legal framework, expertise and resources, the activities undertaken by the Lao Government to prevent terrorism are so far relatively limited. However, these obstacles will not undermine the determination and will of the Lao Government in combating terrorist acts. It will continue to make every effort to further join the international community in implementing the provisions embedded in Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).